(b) whether there is any delay in the implementation of pay revision recommended by the Fifth Pay Commission; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTSMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) There is an estimated number of about 38 lakh Central Government pensioners belonging to the Defence Services, Railways, P & T and Central Government Departments. No centralised records are maintained in this Ministry regarding details of pensioners and pension payments because the functions of sanction, revision and disbursement of pension have been fully decentralised to the respective Departments.

(b) and (c) Delays in revision of pension cases following acceptance of recommendations of the 5th Pay Commission have been reported by a number of Departments. The delays, according to the Departments, have occurred owing to non-receipt of applications from pensioners for revision of pension, incomplete information received by the Department and non-availability of relevant records of old pensioners. This Ministry has been periodically reviewing the situation in inter-departmental meetings and have issued instructions to various Departments to set up monitoring mechanism to expedite revision of pension cases.

Pension Reforms in the Country

4963. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering proposals to introduce any broad based pension reforms in the country;

(b) if so, the details of proposals received/under consideration of Government and action taken thereon; and

(c) what is the present status of fresh initiatives taken by Government to evolve New Pension Policy to provide safety net to maximum working persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS

(SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) By accepting almost all the major recommendations made by the Fifth Central Pay Commission, pension has been considerably liberalised in respect of Central Government pensioners. However, as regard broadbased pension reforms in the country, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment had constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of S.A. Dave to examine policy questions connected with old age and income security in India. The Report submitted to the Government on 11.1.2000, *inter-alia*, contains recommendations on the schemes and actions that Government may take to ensure that every young worker builds up enough savings during his/her working life which could serve as a shield against poverty during old age. These recommendations have a twin focus on further improving existing pension provisions and to devise a fresh pension plan for such workers not covered by the present pension provisions. The Report has also recommended establishment of a regulatory agency called Indian Pension Authority to oversee and supervise the functioning of the pension system proposed. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has accepted the Report and has initiated action on it.

Opening of CBI Office in United States

4964. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that US has invited India to open an office of CBI in US on reciprocal basis;

(b) if so, whether India propose to open the office in US; and

(c) if so, when and what are the modalities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Amendment in the Constitution

4965. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to amend the Constitution to ensure that the backlog of vacancies of SC/ST in the Central Government are filled up; and